

# SIGN of the TIMES An E-NEWS

March –May 2013



Iowa Department of Human Rights



Office of Deaf Services

Happy Spring! Can you believe the winter is almost over? We are looking forward to having spring arrive so we can have outdoor activities. It will be nice to smell the fresh air and enjoy the breeze and comfortable temperatures.

The Department of Human Rights has been conducting community outreach meetings across the State of Iowa in strategic locations, capturing urban and rural settings to learn about issues facing special populations in our communities. The meetings were led by Heidi Smith, the Deputy Director of the Department of Human Rights (DHR) and Administrator of Community Advocacy and Services Division (CAS).

## **The purposes of the meetings were:**

- \* For Department of Human Rights to learn about the issues facing communities
- \* Using the information learned to help prioritize and guide the work of our department
- \* To identify and document issues and trends across the State (a report of findings statewide is being developed)
- \* To assist in educating legislators, other state agencies, and stakeholders about the issues
- \* To provide an opportunity for community members to learn about the issues and each other, as well

## **The following four guiding questions were asked of the participants:**

- \* What barriers does the identified community have to access healthcare?
- \* What specific issues do students face that peripherally create barriers to success in school?
- \* What social supports are lacking in the community?
- \* What are the barriers to successful meaningful employment?

Key leadership was sent letters inviting them to the Outreach meetings. Those that were invited were asked to invite others they felt could provide meaningful information to the conversation from their community.

A report will be written after all the meetings have been completed. These will be made available to the public when complete. You may request a copy from Heidi Smith at [Heidi.Smith@iowa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Smith@iowa.gov)

Visit DSCI website: [www.deafservices.iowa.gov](http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov) Questions or Comments? Email us: [dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov)



Deaf Services Commission of Iowa, Theresa Legg, DSCI Chairperson attended the Cedar Rapids meeting and Jennifer Upah, DSCI Deaf Representative, attended the Dubuque meeting. Both provided insights about how the questions that were asked at the meetings had an impact on the Deaf community. Heidi appreciated their attendance and willingness to share. Submitted by: Heidi Smith, CAS, Administrator

## **Mental Illness: The Facts**

Mental illnesses are brain disorders. They are not defects in someone's personality or a sign of poor moral character or a lack of faith.

It certainly does not mean that the ill person is a failure. Chemical imbalances in the brain, unknown or completely known causes, are much of the reason for symptoms of mental illness/

Mental illness is like other organ diseases in which body chemistry changes. The abnormal chemistry of mental illnesses affects brain function the same way that too little or too much of other body chemicals damage the heart, kidneys or liver.

A heart attack is a symptom of a serious heart disease, just as hearing voices, mood swings, withdrawal from social activities, or feeling out of control are common symptoms of a mental illness.

Mental illness can affect people of any age, race, religion, education, or income level. As you read this, five million people here in the United State are dealing with serious, chronic brain disorder. Major brain disorders include schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depression), major depression, anxiety disorders, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

There are many points on the continuum of wellness, and different degrees of recovery that can be reached with medication, therapy, and a strong support system. Submitted by: Jill Avery, Executive Officer, Office of Person with Disabilities, Office of Native American Affairs & Deaf Services.

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## **Iowa Utilities Board, IUB, to Administer the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for Iowa:**

On July 2, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced the launch of the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), selecting the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) as the entity certified to participate. The Iowa program will be known as IowaCanConnect (ICC) and will assist eligible deaf-blind Iowans in obtaining and learning to use the specialized equipment they need to access the telephone system, Internet, and advanced communications services. Iowans who are deaf-blind and wish to apply for this program may contact Renee Toombs of Telecommunications Access Iowa, TAI, at (800)606-5099 or by email at [TeleIowa@aol.com](mailto:TeleIowa@aol.com), Betty Hansen of the Iowa Department for the Blind at (515)281-1259, or (515)505-3112 VP, or by email at [betty.hansen@blind.state.ia.us](mailto:betty.hansen@blind.state.ia.us), or Joni Nicoll of the IUB, Project Manager at (515) 725-7340 or by email at [Joni.Nicoll@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:Joni.Nicoll@iub.iowa.gov)

## **Deaf Services Website:**

We have made a few updates to our website in the past few months. We are asking our community to continue being patient while we work on getting everything updated. Unfortunately, we do not have a full time staff member to work on our website so it may take some time. If you have any question or concerns please feel free to contact Deaf Services at 515-281-3164.



## **Our Library:**

Deaf Services wants to thank an individual who generously donated books to our library. We have over eighty new books now! We have many new books including children's books, fiction, juvenile fiction and non-fiction and much more. Just a reminder, you can check out our library or any materials between 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Please go to our website to see a complete list of materials that we have available in our bibliography. The books, games, Interpreter books/materials were donated.

Visit DSCI website: [www.deafservices.iowa.gov](http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov) Questions or Comments? Email us: [dhf.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:dhf.dsci@iowa.gov)



## **Iowa's Disability Employment Initiative:**

Seven state agencies in Iowa have worked together over the past 13 years to develop a unified and effective approach to engage Iowans with disabilities more effectively in the industry in their communities. If this application request is awarded, the state of Iowa will be able to bring a sustainable closure to many efforts begun in a 1998 Rehabilitation Services Administration Systems Change initiative, and continued through a 2000 Work Incentive Grant with the Department of Labor and the statewide implementation of the DOL Navigator program. The return on investment has proven beneficial for Iowans with disabilities and sets the stage for anticipated success achieved with this grant proposal.

### **In three years, under this proposal, the State of Iowa will**

1. Enhance collaborative oversight and investment in the movement of Iowans with disabilities into the middle class. This will be accomplished through the guidance of the Office of Disability Employment Policy in expanding state and local partnerships.
2. Enhance the capacity of the Public Workforce Center system to support the movement of Iowans with disabilities into the middle class. This will be accomplished through the added expertise of new partnerships, and the deployment of a "Disability Resource Coordinator" on the workforce service team. These centers will engage in new strategies focused on skill building, training and asset building for job seekers with disabilities.
3. Establish systems change in service that is sustainable. In partnership with the Social Security Administration, the outcomes achieved by Social Security Disability beneficiaries will generate incentives to Regional Workforce Investment Boards (RWIB) as these job seekers become self-sufficient and less reliant on welfare systems. It is projected that Iowa RWIBs will be able to sustain the costs of the strategies developed in this project through the outcomes of their efforts.

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**Developments in Iowa the past few years have added momentum to the State partners' mission and are particularly relevant for workforce boards:**

- 1) In 2009, Iowa's Governor created a task force response to address the potential for abuse of dependent adults with mental retardation. One of the outcomes was the understanding of the importance of a statewide network of individuals available to provide accurate information regarding disability and employment.
- 2) In January of 2008, Iowa's Senate File 2699 provided direction to Iowa's employment service agencies to become "integrated" in service design, and respond to all Iowans in a service rather than program focus. The level of services available to all customers has increased and disability disclosure among "members" has increased.
- 3) Research by Mathematica released in 2010 shows that Iowans on SSA disability benefits are using Iowa workforce centers, and achieving stronger outcomes in employment than those who don't access these services. This data, along with Iowa's business case that triggered the state in operating as an Employment Network since 2007, is providing the confidence to local leadership that we have the ability to be responsive.

**The State of Iowa has supported Iowa's Regional Workforce Investment Boards in recognizing the discrepancy in employment of their residents with disabilities when compared to the full work force, as well as the opportunity available to them in engaging an underutilized talent pool when it comes to meeting the expected skills shortage the state's employers will face in the next five years. Through their partnership with state agencies, RWIBs demonstrated their responsiveness with the following actions:**

- Employed Disability Program Navigators
- Addressed accessibility of services in One-Stop Centers
- Developed strategic objectives to increase the employment of Iowans with disabilities through reports provided by an internal evaluator and Navigators
- Began a plan for sustainability of this effort through statewide operation as Employment Network under the Ticket to Work program.

**Visit DSCI website: [www.deafservices.iowa.gov](http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov) Questions or Comments? Email us: [dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov)**

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Iowa proposes to expand this initiative statewide, as participating regions experience success, and look forward to exchanging best practices with other states.

The Iowa project will work with DOL and the 5 Regional Workforce Boards to *deploy Disability Resource Coordinators* in these regions. These regions, in partnership with Iowa's state agencies will *use the following strategies*: 1) Partnership and Collaboration, 2) integrated resource teams, and 3) asset development to meet the objectives described above. In addition, these Boards, through the activities of the Disability Resource Coordinator, will be *linked to the efforts* of the state collaboration to increase opportunities and options to enhance the quality of life for Iowans.

## **Five Pilot Regions Selected for Iowa Disability Employment Initiative**

Iowa has received a collaborative grant to improve how Iowa's regional workforce boards include people with disabilities in their labor pool. This initiative will provide "Disability Resource Coordinators" in One-Stop offices, and seek to develop new partnerships and service strategies to create stronger employment outcomes. The initiative is just getting started as the Department of Labor has selected Regions 3/4 (Spencer), 7 (Waterloo), 11 (Des Moines), 12 (Sioux City) and 16 (Burlington) to pilot the initiative. **Stay tuned for more announcements as the initiative progresses.**

## **Scholarship Opportunity (See the application next pages)**

The Iowa Association of the Deaf Board is offering a scholarship competition for any Deaf student from Iowa or Nebraska. If you have graduated from high school or will receive a high school diploma by June 2013 and will attend an accredited college or training and certificate program you are eligible to apply. You have a chance to win an award up to \$2,000. The application deadline is June 15, 2013 and the Board will announce the winners during the 2013 IAD Conference in Johnston, Iowa on July 27, 2013

Visit DSCI website: [www.deafservices.iowa.gov](http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov) Questions or Comments? Email us: [thr.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:thr.dsci@iowa.gov)

## **The 2013 Iowa Association of the Deaf Scholarship Competition**

### **Awards up to \$2,000**

The Iowa Association of the Deaf Board is proudly announcing the 2013 Iowa Association of the Deaf Scholarship Competition for awards up to \$2,000 dollars. During the 2013 IAD Conference at Johnston, Iowa, the Board will award winners on July 27, 2013.

#### **Application Instructions and Eligibility**

**Deadline:** *All application materials must be postmarked by June 15, 2013.*

**Eligibility:** Any Deaf student (from Iowa or Nebraska) who has graduated from high school, or will receive a high school diploma by June 2013, and will attend an accredited college or training and certificate program is eligible to apply.

#### **Iowa Association of the Deaf Scholarship Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Videophone: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: (just put a check (✓) to one of the blanks) Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

High School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Goal to become what? \_\_\_\_\_

List any activities/organizations with which you have been involved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List any leadership positions you have held: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List any awards and special recognitions/achievements: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Write an essay of approximately 250 words): How this scholarship helps you I achieving your personal/ career goal? Write your essay on a separate paper if needed.

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Why are you seeking this scholarship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby certify that:**

- All the above questions have been answered to the best of my ability and knowledge.
- I understand that the committee reviewing this application will keep all information placed on this form confidential.
- I will get the scholarship money after I finish a semester or two quarters of my educational work by letting the IAD Scholarship Chairperson know.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature  
(If applicant is under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Return completed application on **June 15, 2013**. Send to:

**Sherry Hirsch, Chairperson of the IAD Scholarship Committee**  
**1209 NW Greenwood St., Ankeny, Iowa 50023-1018**



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## CODA Manager of Sprint by Wireless View PCS

Amanda Pierce here, I am the Manager of Sprint *by Wireless View PCS* and a **C.O.D.A.** I'd like to reach out to the Deaf Community to offer an exclusive plan for hard of hearing and profoundly Deaf customers. The 'Sprint Relay Data Only' includes:

- ⇒ Unlimited data
- ⇒ Unlimited E-mail
- ⇒ Unlimited internet usage
- ⇒ Unlimited text messaging
- ⇒ All incoming calls blocked
- ⇒ 911 will not be blocked

This exclusive plan is **\$54.99/mo. per line** (not including taxes or surcharges) for Smartphones (*Android, Apple, & Blackberry*). Requires new activation with a 2-year agreement or upgrade. Start up fees and other monthly charges apply, See store for details.

We also provide 'Ready Now' service in-store. With 'Ready Now' we ensure your device is set up to your liking (contacts, email, applications, etc) as well as provide tutorials on how to use your new Smartphone.

If you would like to know more about what Sprint has to offer, please call to schedule an appointment with me or visit the Sprint Relay Store online at

[www.sprintrelaystore.com](http://www.sprintrelaystore.com).

### Amanda Pierce's contact information:

Amanda Pierce, Sale Manager  
Spring by Wireless View PCS  
123 N. Ankeny Blvd.  
Ankeny Iowa 50021  
515-964-1488



## Deaf History: The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouts!

As many of you know, the months of February and March is the time that all the Girl Scouts start to go out into the community and sell their cookies. In honor of the 100th anniversary lets pay tribute to one of the most significant people in Deaf history.

Juliette Gordon Low was born in October 31, 1860 in Savannah, GA. She attended several prominent boarding schools while her father was a confederate captain in the Civil War. Growing up, Juliette had suffered from chronic ear infections, she had lost most of her hearing in one ear because of improper treatment. At her wedding, when she was 26, she lost hearing in her other ear after a grain of rice thrown at the event lodged in her ear, puncturing the eardrum and resulting in an infection and total loss of hearing in that ear. Through it all, she kept up her spirits and engaged people throughout America and England.

In 1911, Juliette went to England and met Lord Baden Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts. At this time, Mrs. Low started working with children to help them become leaders. Her first efforts were successful in England so she returned home to Savannah and Mrs. Low and her cousin recruited girls and leaders and gathered 18 girls to register for the first troop of "American Girl Guides." A year later it was renamed the Girl Scouts in 1913. Juliette brought girls of all backgrounds encouraging and preparing them not only for traditional homemaking, but also for possible future roles as professional women in the arts, sciences and business and for active citizenship outside the home.

In 1923 Mrs. Low contracted cancer. She kept her illness a secret and bravely continued her efforts. Less than a year later, on Jan 17, 1927, Juliette Gordon Low died of cancer in Savannah, at the age of sixty-six. The membership in the Girl Scouts by this time numbered 168,000. She was buried in the uniform representing the organization she founded which to this day continues to change the world.





## **Free Tax Return Preparation for You by Volunteers**



IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs offer free tax help for taxpayers who qualify.

### **IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**

The VITA Program generally offers free tax help to people who make \$51,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in local communities. They can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations.

**Find a VITA Site Near You:** call 1-800-906-9887

### **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)**

The [TCE Program](#) offers free tax help for all with priority assistance to people who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement issues unique to seniors. IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

**Find a TCE or AARP Tax-Aide Site Near You:** call 888-227-7669.

### **Self-Help Tax Preparation**

In addition to traditional face-to-face tax preparation, the IRS is offering a self-assistance service at many VITA and TCE locations. If individuals have a simple tax return and need a little help or do not have access to a computer, they can visit one of the participating tax preparation sites and an IRS-certified volunteer will guide them through the process.

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Note: Majority of the VITA and TCE sites are open annually from late January/early February to April 15, 2013.

## **Important to check the items you need to bring:**

To have your tax return (s) prepared at a VITA or TCE site you need to bring the following information with you:

- Proof of identification – Picture ID
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents or a Social Security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter for you, your spouse and dependents
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement (s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Proof of bank account routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit, such as a blank check
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number, if appropriate)
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

It is extremely important that each person use the correct Social Security number. The most accurate information is usually located on your original Social Security card. If you do not have an SSN for you or a dependent, you should complete Form SS-5, Social Security Number Application. This form should be submitted to the nearest Social Security Administration Office.

If you or your dependent is not eligible to get a Social Security Number, you may need an [Individual Taxpayer Identification Number \(ITIN\)](#).

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deaftax.com™  
Schwarz Financial Services LLC™



## DeafTax.com is available using ASL for the Deaf Community:

Did you know DeafTax.com is owned and operated by Deaf professionals that use ASL? They are available to help you with your tax return, Vita and Tax Consultant—They have Vlogs in ASL, please check their webpage for detailed information at [www.deaftax.com](http://www.deaftax.com)—Call DeafTax.com now to get started on your tax return. Their contact are **East coast** at 240-855-0014 - **West coast** at 808-240-2382

**Generally, your tax return is due on April 15th of each year!**

## Advocating for Change Day

The “Advocating for Change Day” event for the disabled in the community will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, in Des Moines Iowa – check out [www.idaction.org](http://www.idaction.org) for more details!

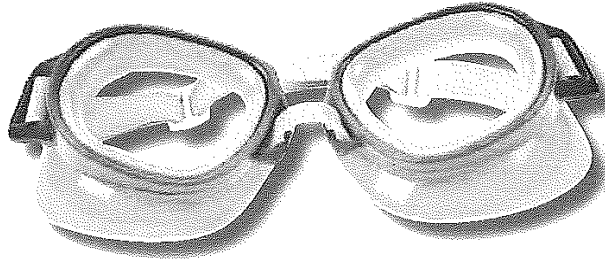
Register by  
May 15, 2013

## Iowa Summer Sports Camps: (See the flyer, next page)

Iowa School for the Deaf has three Iowa summer sports camps coming up this summer. For children who are Iowa residents – are deaf, hard of hearing, speaking, signing or using both modes of communication – If you live Nebraska, please call the camp coordinator. For detailed information, please contact the camp coordinator at 712-366-3241

**\$50.00 per camp ~ Scholarships available**

2013



WE'VE  
GOT NEW  
CAMPS!

## Get your **SUMMER** on at Iowa School for the Deaf!

For children who ■ are Iowa residents\* ■ are deaf, hard-of-hearing, hearing-impaired, speaking, signing or using both modes of communication ■ use a hearing aid, cochlear implant or no devices ■ do not attend ISD ■ or do attend ISD \*Nebraska residents call Gayle at 712.366.3241

### Sports Camp

Council Bluffs

June 16 - 21, 2013

Grades: entering 7th - 12th

For the beginning or seasoned athlete, this brand new camp will offer individual and team skills to help student athletes compete in their home district sports. This is a physically demanding week and students should expect to be active most of the day. The week concludes with a family award banquet and lunch on Friday.

### Summer Camp

Council Bluffs

July 7 - 12, 2013

Grades: entering preschool - 12th

Our goal is to help your child enjoy a week of making friends, appreciating local attractions, having fun, and enriching their lives! Our campers look forward to this week all year.

### Language Camp

Vinton, Iowa

July 14 - 19, 2013

For IFSP age through entering 8th grade

Another new offering this year! The week involves interaction and evaluation to strengthen your child's language skills, regardless if they use their voice, sign or both.

### Curious About Campus?

An optional school tour will start from the Lied Multipurpose Complex (where you check in prior to camp) Friday, June 21 at 10 a.m. for sports camp families and Sunday, July 7 at 2 p.m. for summer camp families. (Arrive at 1 p.m. to check in your child if you wish to tour.)

**\$50 per camp**

**Scholarships  
available**

**Register by  
May 15**

■ Where do I register? How do I pay? Click [HERE](#)

■ What do I pack?

Click [HERE](#) for sports camp

Click [HERE](#) for summer or language camp

■ I need more information!

Click [HERE](#) to contact the camps coordinator or call 712.366.3241.

**Your new friends and ISD staff  
are looking forward to meeting you!**



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## For Those of You Who Use A Captioned Telephone:

Here is an opportunity to participate in an online survey regarding captioned telephone use. The message below is from a colleague of mine from Florida. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes; see details below.

**Please do not feel obligated to participate — Only if you are interested!**

~Joni Nicoll, Project Manager, Relay Iowa/EDP

### **PARTICIPANTS WANTED FOR A BRIEF ONLINE SURVEY ABOUT CAPTIONED TELEPHONE USE**

An online survey is being conducted by the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Telecommunications Access at Gallaudet University to learn about the experiences of adults who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing loss, and who use Captioned Telephone Services. The goal of the survey is to help inform the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) about the use of captioned telephones.

#### **Individuals interested in participating:**

1. must be 18 years of age or older, and
2. must be deaf, hard of hearing, or have a hearing loss.

The study takes approximately 10 minutes. You will be asked questions about your hearing loss, your hearing device use, the captioned telephone service and equipment you use for personal and work related calls, and your experience using this type of telephone and service.

If you would like to participate in this online survey, please go to <http://tap.gallaudet.edu/CTSSurvey/>

This study has been approved by the Gallaudet University Institutional Review Board.

Visit DSCI website: [www.deafservices.iowa.gov](http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov) Questions or Comments? Email us: [thr.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:thr.dsci@iowa.gov)

# Iowa Deafblind Services Project

*"Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much."*  
-Helen Keller

## What is Our Project About?

The term deafblindness describes a condition that combines, in varying degrees, both a hearing loss and a visual impairment. All those who are deafblind experience challenges with communication and access to information; however, their individual needs will vary enormously. Iowa Deafblind Services Project is a federally funded project with additional support from Iowa Department of Education, Iowa School for the Deaf, Iowa Braille School, and Iowa's Area Education Agencies. The purpose of this grant is to improve the outcomes of children and youth (birth – 21) who are deafblind by building the capacity of those who live and work with them. The project is designed to customize services to the specific needs of the individual child/youth, their families, educational teams, and other service providers.

## What Can We Do For YOU?

Iowa Deafblind Services Project equips families, educators, and other professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to improve child outcomes by offering the following:

- Identification of children and youth who are deafblind
- Resource linkages and materials
- Family-to-Family Connections
- On-site visits to collaborate on your specific concerns
- Workshops and conferences



*"Deafblindness"*  
describes a condition that combines *both*  
a hearing loss and a visual impairment.

## Who Is Eligible For Our Services?

**Children and youth (birth – 21) who have  
ONE of the following:**

- A COMBINATION of hearing and vision losses demonstrated by the results of appropriate test or observational assessment (note: functional level may vary from mild to severe losses)
- Degenerative disorders that will eventually affect both vision AND hearing
- Multiple disabilities and require specialized adaptations for vision AND hearing
- For infants, toddlers, and preschoolers: a diagnosed condition that puts them at-risk for having a COMBINATION of vision AND hearing losses

## Contact Us

### **Iowa Deafblind Services Project**

Iowa Braille School  
1002 G Ave., Vinton, IA 52349

### **Joan Pease, Project Coordinator**

319-472-5221, Ext. 1002  
jpease@iowa-braille.k12.ia.us

### **Phyllis McGowan, Family Liaison**

319-472-5221, Ext. 1028  
pkmcgowan@iowa-braille.k12.ia.us

### **Patrick Clancy, Project Director**

319-472-5221, Ext. 1132  
pclancy@iowa-braille.k12.ia.us

Or call toll-free at 1-800-645-4579  
at any of the extensions listed above.

Visit our website at [www.iadeafblind.k12.ia.us](http://www.iadeafblind.k12.ia.us)



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It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we must pass along the link of the obituary for Kathryn Baumann-Reese. Kathryn's loss was hard on us, particularly at the Dept. of Human Rights. She was an interpreter with Deaf Services for about 13 years and then later on she became administrator with Deaf Services and deputy director of the department. Deaf Services staff has so many fond memories of her as we worked closely for such a long time. Kathryn was admired and valued within the Deaf community. She loved you all! It choked us up when we heard the news about Kathryn. She will be greatly missed by all of us. She is in our prayer always!

## **Kathryn Baumann-Reese**

( February 14, 1965 - December 2, 2012)



Kathryn passed away on December 2, 2012, at Taylor House Hospice in Des Moines, IA after losing her battle with breast cancer. The family will greet friends at Merle Hay Funeral Home, 4400 Merle Hay Road in Des Moines for a Memorial Gathering on Sunday, December 9, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. She is survived by her husband, Jeff; child, Jared of Des Moines; birth-mother, Marsha Smith of Clinton, IA; and brother Craig of Iowa City, IA. She was preceded in death by her parents Doris and Elroy Baumann of Merrill, WI. Kathryn spent her life and career in service to the Deaf Community first as a licensed Sign Language Interpreter and later as both administrator of Deaf Services Commission of Iowa and deputy director of the Iowa Department of Human Rights. She will be remembered as a devoted mother; loving wife; and loyal friend. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Memorial contributions may be made to the Iowa Association of the Deaf (IAD) Home Office, 531 First St., Story City, Iowa 50248-1129 in loving memory of Kathryn.



Visit DSCI website: [www.deafservices.iowa.gov](http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov) Questions or Comments? Email us: [dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov)



## **Employment Law Know your Rights Video in ASL**

They have six videos in ASL that explain Employment Law and Rights. Employment Law Center in San Francisco to provide “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS” employment law information to Deaf workers and job seekers. Please check it out at:

<http://www.las-elc.org/news/american-sign-language-asl-videos>

## **Deaf Service Commission Meeting:**

Check the DSCI website for further details on upcoming Commission meeting dates, locations, etc. If internet service is not available to you, please contact our office to request the information or check with the Commissioner in your area.

Our next DSCI Commission meeting will be: **Saturday, May 4, 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.** at the Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Dr., Pleasant Hill, IA.

## **Farewell Deaf Services Commissioner:**

Commissioners of DSCI are appointed by the Governor and serve a four year term. Dr. James Snyder's term will end April 30th and he will be leaving the commission. Did you know that Dr. Snyder was a former commissioner with the Deaf Services years ago? He decided to apply to be a DSCI commissioner again. The Governor appointed Dr. Snyder back to the DSCI commission. He wanted to be part of the community and he was a very strong advocate & would do anything that would help the community. We thank Dr. Snyder for his service and everything he has done for the community and DSCI. He will be greatly missed!

## **Welcome Aboard New Commissioner:**

The Governor has appointed Mark Hersch, Dallas Center to the DSCI, Commission. Please join us in welcoming him to DSCI! His term begins 5/1/13.



## **Commissioner, Bob Vizzin's Report:**

I am glad to be on the commission again for another 3 years. I hope to get to know more people and find more ways to serve the community. I believe in standing up and speaking out for Deaf people's human rights and equality. I feel that way probably because I am Deaf and proud to be deaf. I lived in different states and see some progress and some struggles. There is always work we have to do! It is a challenge when people do not know what issues Deaf people face. This is a lot of education and awareness to share with the public, agencies, organizations, employers, educators, courts, the government and more!

Also, Deaf and hard of hearing people can learn about their rights and how to stand up. I think we all learn to improve at this but can make it better for other people when right now, DSCI is focusing on some specific areas we hope to help Deaf Iowans with. My focus area is Interpreting services. Your input, ideas or concerns is needed for me to bring up to the commission and try to improve. Feel free to talk with me or contact me-or any other commissioner. We are serving the people of Iowa.

Another area I also am concerned about is Deaf and hard of hearing people's education. We are seeing some changes and want it to go in the right way. Again, feel free to communicate with us to help deaf children and the future.

I would like to share a little about myself. I moved in Iowa in 2007, and have been an ASL teacher at Kirkwood Community College, then University of Iowa. I have a Deaf wife, Sharon, and five children. I enjoy family time, kids school sports, deaf social events, attending national Deaf conferences and watching college or professional sports.

Sometimes I am shy, but I do like to meet people for DSCI goals. Sometimes I forget new people I meet, but do not mean to ignore anyone. No way! Feel free to contact me and let's do this for the future of Deaf people in Iowa.

You count!  
Bob "vizz" Vizzini  
Cedar Rapids

# SIGN of the TIMES An E-NEWS

March 2013– May 2013



Iowa Department of Human Rights



Office of Deaf Services



We have had a long Winter with rain, snow, chilly, cold weather. We are looking forward Spring coming. We hope you have a happy Spring!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 4, 2013:** DSCI Commission Meeting, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Dr, Pleasant Hill, IA

**May 20, 2013:** Iowa Association of the Deaf Board's regular meeting hosted by IAD Board at Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA

**May 27, 2013:** Deaf Service office closed due to the Memorial Day

**June 15, 2013:** Iowa Association of the Deaf (Marshalltown Picnic) 55th Annual Picnic in Reunion Hall, Riverside Park, North Highway 14, Marshalltown, Iowa

**June 16-21, 2013:** Kids Sport Camp, Iowa School for the Deaf, Council Bluffs, Iowa

**July 7-12, 2013:** Kids Summer Camp, Iowa School for the Deaf, Council Bluffs, Iowa

**July 14-17, 2013:** Kids Language Camp, Iowa School for the Deaf, Council Bluffs, Iowa

**July 25-27, 2013: IAD Conference,** Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, 5291 Stoney Creek Ct, Johnston IA

**Nov 6, 2013 (TENTATIVE):** Central Iowa Club of the Deaf 40th anniversary Banquet, 9:00 AM to 5:00PM, Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Convention Center, 2601 East 13th Street, Ames Iowa 50010

### **Deaf Services E-News (Submitting articles, news, recent events or information):**

If you're interested in receiving E-News, please email your request to [dhc.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:dhc.dsci@iowa.gov) Please share with your friends or family member who might be interested in receiving the E-News.

**The deadline for submission for the May 2013 issue is June 1, 2013. Send e-mail submissions to [dhc.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:dhc.dsci@iowa.gov)**

Questions or Comments? Email us: [dhc.dsci@iowa.gov](mailto:dhc.dsci@iowa.gov)